

2013 ANNUAL MEETING
WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF
PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS



PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS
LARAMIE, WYOMING
APRIL 26-27, 2013

GENERAL INFORMATION

The 2013 Wyoming Archaeological Society meeting, the silent auction, the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation meeting, and the Saturday banquet will be held at the host hotel, the Hilton Garden Inn, 2229 Grand Ave., Laramie, WY 82070. Events will take place in Salons E and F in the University of Wyoming Conference Center at the Hilton.

WAPA

The WAPA meeting will be held from 12:00 – 4:00 Friday, April 26, in the Agriculture Building, room 1032 on the University Campus.

Welcome Reception

The welcome reception will be held on Friday, 4/26 from 5:30 pm to 10:00 pm in the Salon E at the Hilton Garden Inn. Free beer, wine, and food will be provided while they last. A cash bar will also be available. Please come and mingle with the group!

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee will meet at 12:00 pm (noon) on Saturday, April 27th, in room Garden "I". You will be able to order lunch at the meeting.

Wyoming Archaeological Foundation

The Foundation Board breakfast meeting will be from 7:00 am – 9:00 am on Sunday April 28th, in room Garden "I". All are welcome.

Silent Auction

The annual fund-raising auction provides a variety of items for your bidding pleasure. If you have items you would like to donate to the auction, please bring them with you to the meeting. Please direct any questions to Carmen Clayton at Carmen.Clayton@wyo.gov.

Field Trip

Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site Private Tour (Sunday 4/28, meeting at the Hilton lobby, 9:00 AM).

2013 WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY/ WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS ANNUAL MEETING PAPERS AND ABSTRACTS

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- 10:30** *ANALYSIS OF AN EARLY LATE PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSEMBLAGE FROM HELL GAP VALLEY, EASTERN WYOMING* by Rachael Lea Shimek (University of Wyoming) and Joshua Robert-Allen Boyd (University of Wyoming)
- 10:50** *MUDDY MOUNTAIN ARCHAEOLOGY* by William Hovendick (Central Wyoming College)
- 11:10** *WHICH LAWS WORK BEST? A COMPARISON OF NATIONAL APPROACHES TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES* by Mallory Ann Hayes (Central Wyoming College)
- 11:30** *48FR6484 - COAL GULCH ROCK SHELTER* by Jordan Stapley (Central Wyoming College)
- 11:50-1:00** LUNCH
- 1:00** *INDICATIONS OF PRISMATIC BLADE PRODUCTION IN WYOMING: LITHIC ANALYSIS OF A LARAMIE CACHE* by Sarah M. Millonig (Center for Mountain and Plains Archaeology; Colorado State University)

- 1:20: EMIC VS. ETIC: A NATIVE AMERICAN'S PERSPECTIVES ON ARCHAEOLOGY** by Nico Holt (Central Wyoming College)
- 1:40 48GO554 TABLE MOUNTAIN CERAMICS SITE** by Jessica Crawford (Central Wyoming College)
- 2:00 MUDDY MOUNTAIN SAWMILL 48NA5046** by Jennifer Thornton (Central Wyoming College)
- 2:20 TESTING SOIL MICROBIOLOGY TECHNIQUES FOR USE IN PALEOCLIMATIC RECONSTRUCTION AND DATING: RESULTS FROM HELL GAP, WYOMING** by Brigid Grund (University of Wyoming)
- 2:40 PROGRESS REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS AT THE RUSSELL HOMESTEAD (48LA3182), LARAMIE COUNTY, WY** by Zach Garhart (Laramie County Community College, and The University of Wyoming)
- 3:00 THE SHIRLEY BASIN LODGE SITE: THE OTHER ALTA TOQUIMA OF WYOMING** by Bryon Schroeder (University of Montana)
- 3:20 MULTI-LAYERED INVESTIGATIONS AT THE LANDER ROAD NEW FORK RIVER CROSSING HISTORICAL PARK, SUBLETTE COUNTY, WYOMING** by Kenneth P. Cannon (USU Archeological Services), Molly Boeka Cannon (USU Archeological Services) and Jonathan Pearl (Utah State University)
- 3:40 MORIAH RANCH ARCHAEOLOGY** by Richard Adams (University of Wyoming), Halston F.C. Meeker (University of Wyoming and Colorado State University), and John P. Laughlin, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
- 4:00 LOOK WHAT I FOUND! A PRACTICAL GIS APPROACH TO UNDERSTANDING SITE DENSITIES IN THE WASHAKIE BASIN** by Lucas Carrington (Bureau of Land Management)
- 4:20 PREHISTORIC UTAH THROUGH ROCK ART AND RUIN SITES CAPTURED IN PHOTOGRAPHY** by Larry

Amundson (Fremont County Chapter, WAS)

- 4:40 KICKING THE CAN: OR HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE RUST** by Russell Richard (TRC Environmental)

POSTER PAPERS

- SOLDIERWOLF: PAST AND PRESENT TENSE**, by Claren Copp-LaRocque (American Museum of Natural History)
- DOES SIZE REALLY MATTER? AN INVESTIGATION OF INTER-OBSERVER ERROR RATE IN THE FIELD RECORDING OF BEDROCK GRINDING SURFACES IN SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO**, by Elizabeth M. Lynch (University of Wyoming), Laura Holthus (University of Wyoming) and Susan Simons (Colorado Rock Art Association)
- SOUTHERN PLAINS GRINDING LANDSCAPES: CAN A LOCAL WOOD RAT MIDDEN INFORM US ABOUT PREHISTORIC HUMAN GRINDING WORK SPACES AND BEHAVIOR AT A COLORADO ROCKSHELTER?** by Elizabeth Lynch (University of Wyoming)
- THE LITTLE SNAKE RIVER POSTCONTACT PROJECT: DOCUMENTING AN EARLY TO MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY INDIGENOUS OCCUPATION IN THE SOUTHERN WYOMING BASIN** by Cody Newton (University of Colorado - Boulder)



BANQUET SPEAKER
DAVID S. WHITLEY
ASM AFFILIATES



David S. Whitley received his Ph.D. from UCLA in 1982. He is a Principal at ASM Affiliates, Inc., an archaeological consulting firm, and an Adjunct Professor at the School of Geographical Sciences at Arizona State University. He has conducted rock art research in Guatemala, South Africa, and the European Upper Paleolithic, but his primary research region is western North America. His research emphasizes interpretation, especially ethnographic interpretation; the origins of religion and art; chronometric dating; and heritage management. Some of his recent books include *The Art of the Shaman: Rock Art of California* (2000), the edited *Handbook of Rock Art Research* (2001), and *Introduction to Rock Art Research* (2005, second edition 2011). His latest book is *Cave Paintings and the Human Spirit: The Origin of Creativity and Belief* (2009). He lives in Tehachapi, California.

ABSTRACTS

Adams, Richard (University of Wyoming), Halston F.C. Meeker (University of Wyoming and Colorado State University), and John P. Laughlin, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

MORIAH RANCH ARCHAEOLOGY

The Moriah Ranch was recently acquired by the Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI). The ranch is a large swatch of land (22 square miles) where the Rocky Mountains meet the Northwestern Plains in Albany County, Wyoming. In 2012, archaeological field school students and professional archaeologists spent a week exploring a tiny portion of the ranch and found several significant archaeological sites. We are building a collaboration among OSLI, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the University of Wyoming, Department of Anthropology, George C. Frison Institute, and applying for a Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund grant. We propose to systematically sample the Moriah Ranch 1) to begin to assess the ranch's archaeological resources; 2) to gather data for State of Wyoming land managers to make informed decisions about the Moriah Ranch; and 3) to conduct public outreach while training the next generation of Wyoming archaeologists.

Amundson, Larry (Fremont County Chapter, Wyoming Archaeological Society)

PREHISTORIC UTAH THROUGH ROCK ART AND RUIN SITES CAPTURED IN PHOTOGRAPHY

The San Rafael Swell contains the Buckhorn Wash, Rochester, Black Dragon and Moore Road Snake rock art sites. A hike into the remote Barrier Canyon in Canyonlands National Park provides access to possibly the best group of pictographs on the entire Colorado Plateau. Many of the ghostly figures in the Great Gallery are life-sized and are at least 2000 years old and pre-date the Anasazi. Venture into the Escalante River Canyons on the Hole in the Rock Road near Escalante, Utah to experience multicolored slickrock, arches, narrow slot canyons and unusual rock art.

Cannon, Kenneth P. (USU Archeological Services), Molly Boeka Cannon (USU Archeological Services) and Jonathan Pearl (Utah State University)

MULTI-LAYERED INVESTIGATIONS AT THE LANDER ROAD

NEW FORK RIVER CROSSING HISTORICAL PARK, SUBLETTE COUNTY, WYOMING

In 2011 and 2012 USU Archeological Services began multi-layered investigations on the newly acquired 82-acre parcel for the Lander Trail New Fork River Crossing Historical Park. Investigations included an intensive pedestrian survey of the entire property, shovel testing, metal detection survey, geophysical survey using ground penetrating radar and a magnetic gradiometer, and limited test excavations. Materials uncovered are consistent with the emigrant period use of the trail and suggest buried deposits associated with camping and travels are potentially present. These items include Civil War-era bullets, carriage bolts, horse shoes and trappings, a 1859 Model brass Calvary Spur, hand-forged wagon staple, and a hog-scraper style candle holder. The data collected from a variety of sources is highly encouraging and indicates deposits associated with the Emigrant Period Lander Trail are present.

Carrington, Lucas (Bureau of Land Management)

LOOK WHAT I FOUND! A PRACTICAL GIS APPROACH TO UNDERSTANDING SITE DENSITIES IN THE WASHAKIE BASIN

Archaeologists consistently struggle with ideas of how prehistoric sites relate to the natural world. Are people just products of the environment in which they live? We are creatures linked to our habitat after all. By performing GIS statistical analyses on previously surveyed sites in the Washakie Basin, CRM archaeologists can better understand and organize the physical environmental factors which prehistoric Native Americans actively utilized. This paper explores how various site types (open camps, stone features, lithic scatters, etc.) relate to landscape through GIS statistical modeling, and how we can apply these results to influence prehistoric site management at the earliest stages of a project.

Copp-LaRocque, Claren (American Museum of Natural History)

SOLDIERWOLF: PAST AND PRESENT TENSE [POSTER PAPER]

Archaeology is not just the study of the “stuff and junk” of the past, as I have heard some people describe it. It can be an important element of past narratives and present understanding of culture and cultural change. The Soldierwolf collection now housed at Central Wyoming College is an important example of how a collection of artifacts can represent alternate interpretations or under-

standings of historic events. In addition, using the collection forces us to confront the intersection between doing ‘hard science,’ i.e., the data points collected through objective observation of artifacts, and ‘soft science,’ or using personal histories or family stories that give meaning to those same artifacts in the present day. Archaeology continually forces us to walk the line between scientific ‘truth’ and human capriciousness. The poster presented here attempts to create a visual map of the complexity involved in interpreting the Soldierwolf collection and to remind us why it is important to look at it holistically, with the past and the present both kept in mind.

Crawford, Jessica (Central Wyoming College)

48GO554 TABLE MOUNTAIN CERAMICS SITE

An archaeological survey in 2012 revealed the remnants of a buried campsite in a stream bank twenty-five miles south of Torrington, Wyoming. A black, organic horizon, bone fragments, lithics, and ceramic fragments were observed in the cut-bank. Subsurface testing revealed butchered bone, lithics, a small amount of charcoal, and rim, neck, and body sherds of a ceramic vessel. The ceramics seem to be from a small, round bottomed vessel more likely manufactured in Wyoming than in Nebraska. The body of the vessel was cord marked but the mouth, lip, rim, and neck were undecorated. This site is about one mile from the Huntley Burials, 48GO7, which are thought to be Plains Woodland in origin. The Table Mountain Ceramics site probably dates between 1000-500BP and may be the result of an Upper Republican occupation.

Garhart, Zach (Laramie County Community College, and The University of Wyoming)

Progress Report on Excavations at the Russell Homestead (48LA3182), Laramie County, WY

The Belvoir Ranch is located west of Cheyenne in Laramie County. Laramie County Community College has been engaged in excavations at several sites on the property, including the Russell Homestead. The first recorded occupation of this property was in 1920 by Eugene R. Russell who homesteaded the land. The main house has a masonry foundation made with shaped local limestone slabs and cement, has a plastered floor, and presumably a wooden superstructure. A major question revolves around water acquisition and storage. The barn is missing, but metal detecting has suggested its locality. There has been no evidence yet for either the

outhouse or dump. Oral history has revealed that moonshiners used the house for a time, but there is yet to be any archaeological evidence of that use.

Grund, Brigid (University of Wyoming)

TESTING SOIL MICROBIOLOGY TECHNIQUES FOR USE IN PALEOCLIMATIC RECONSTRUCTION AND DATING: RESULTS FROM HELL GAP, WYOMING

Living soil microorganisms are ubiquitous and could provide unrealized contributions to paleoenvironmental, dating, and other archaeological research. We evaluated the effectiveness of a previously proposed microbiological technique for paleoclimatic reconstruction (which has been applied but not adequately verified), and also introduced and tested a preliminary method of using soil microbe density for relative dating. Soils from a sample column representing a complete chronosequence at Hell Gap, Locality I, Wyoming, were cultured on three different solid media. Microbial trophic group composition significantly correlated to soil pH, but not to prior precipitation reconstructions; further refinement is required before the paleoclimatic reconstruction method can be implemented with confidence. Microbial density decreased with age, indicating that there was a temporal signature within the sample column and that density could potentially be used as a relative dating technique.

Hayes, Mallory Ann (Central Wyoming College)

WHICH LAWS WORK BEST? A COMPARISON OF NATIONAL APPROACHES TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Across the world, countries differ dramatically in their legal approaches to the reporting, collection, and preservation of archaeological discoveries. These approaches range from strict control of the entire process by the state to various private-public partnership schemes, and each carries both positive and negative consequences. Despite their differences, all nations wish to decrease looting and increase the protection of their heritage items and sites. This paper traces recent developments in several national approaches to the question of archaeological discovery in an attempt to determine which approaches are most successful at increasing reporting, access, and preservation. Questions addressed will include ownership, reporting laws, amnesty programs, and compensation for landowners, as well as the issue of private versus public collections.

Holt, Nico (Central Wyoming College)

EMIC VS. ETIC: A NATIVE AMERICAN'S PERSPECTIVES ON ARCHAEOLOGY

In studying anthropology, emic is the insider's perspective. Etic is the outsider's perspective. If a Native American works as an archaeologist, what is his world view? Native Americans have a variety of opinions about anthropology and archaeology. These vary from favorable to unfavorable, from tribe to tribe, and from individual to individual even within tribes and families. This paper grows out of some college courses and an archaeological field school taken in pursuit of a degree, and an archaeological internship with the Bureau of Land Management – Lander Field Office. It takes a look at the past and how bad the relationships were and how our modern government has been trying to amend them, and explores the BLM's various relationships with and ways of establishing better connections with Native Americans. It also offers a brief overview of other federal and state agencies and their related programs

Hovendick, Dick (Central Wyoming College)

MUDDY MOUNTAIN ARCHAEOLOGY

In June 2012, the Central Wyoming College Field School conducted a 550 acre Class III archaeological survey on top of Muddy Mountain south of Casper to document cultural resources prior to a BLM timber thinning project. The survey revealed both historic and prehistoric evidence of human activity. This paper describes the prehistoric sites, isolated resources, and artifacts found in relation to the environment and locally available food and lithic resources. It then defines patterns of human activity across the mountain top, discussing what activities may have taken place and why people visited but did not camp in this area. This information contributes to our understanding of prehistoric peoples and subsistence strategies in Wyoming.

Lynch, Elizabeth (University of Wyoming)

SOUTHERN PLAINS GRINDING LANDSCAPES: CAN A LOCAL WOOD RAT MIDDEN INFORM US ABOUT PREHISTORIC HUMAN GRINDING WORK SPACES AND BEHAVIOR AT A COLORADO ROCKSHELTER? [POSTER PAPER]

Prehistoric peoples created milling surfaces on exposed bedrock outcrops in the canyon landscape of southeastern Colorado. The bedrock milling cultural phenomena is wide spread from south

of the Arkansas River to the Cimarron in Northeastern New Mexico. The duration and scope of this regional cultural expression is poorly understood at this time, but the ubiquitous use of stationary grinding implements in the bordering southwest suggests the features may have been used in a similar manner - perhaps, as hypothesized, for grinding corn grown in the Chacuaco floodplain or to process a variety of wild foods (e.g. acorn and locally harvested nuts). With meager direct evidence as to the time of use or the resources being processed, there is little to suggest whether wild foods or domesticated foods were milled. Localized woodrat middens at 5LA11455 were sampled to test our assumptions about the use and environment of ground bedrock surfaces in the Chacuaco drainage. Pollen from basin sediments and a surface wash were tested to determine the difference between local vegetation at the time of occupation and the post abandonment environment. This paper presents the results of pollen tests and materials recovered from wood rat middens that overlaid the prehistoric grinding surfaces at 5LA11455.

Lynch, Elizabeth M. (University of Wyoming), Laura Holthus (University of Wyoming), and Susan Simons, Colorado Rock Art Association

DOES SIZE REALLY MATTER? AN INVESTIGATION OF INTER-OBSERVER ERROR RATE IN THE FIELD RECORDING OF BEDROCK GRINDING SURFACES IN SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO [POSTER PAPER]

The canyon landscape of southeastern Colorado houses a complex distribution of grinding surfaces (metates) created between 2500 to 600 years ago on exposed sandstone boulders in rockshelters and along canyon rims. These work spaces enhance our understanding of how prehistoric peoples socialized their landscape and represent an important, yet under-studied, aspect of the archaeological record in this region. Archaeologists who document these features record the length (longest axis), width (widest axis) and basin depth as standard measurements of volume. Since level of training and experience recording groundstone differs among archaeologists, we hypothesize that there will be error between measurements of individual recorders thereby rendering existing data problematic for in comparative studies. Our paper presents the results of a test of this hypothesis and provides suggestions about how to best accommodate inter-observer error and incorporate data recorded by other investigators into a long term study of

bedrock ground surfaces.

Millonig, Sarah M. (Center for Mountain and Plains Archaeology; Colorado State University)

INDICATIONS OF PRISMATIC BLADE PRODUCTION IN WYOMING: LITHIC ANALYSIS OF A LARAMIE CACHE

The Kinney Cache, discovered near Laramie, Wyoming, consists of 32 chipped stone tools. Unlike other well-known caches, the Kinney Cache is blade dominated, containing only two bifaces. Lithic analysis indicates over 80% (n=26) of the specimens represent composite tools serving more than one function including, but not limited to: wood-bone-or antler manipulation, hide processing or scraping, and cutting or slicing of animal products or soft vegetal substances. The tools also appear to have been abandoned or cached during early-to-mid stages of manufacture with abundant remaining use-life. The Kinney Cache was compared to nine other blade-dominated caches, presumed to be Clovis in origin. The results of the comparative lithic analysis suggest the Kinney Cache is unique in terms of edge utilization and metric attributes. This aspect is further demonstrated by comparing this cache to two other blade assemblages recovered from Central Plains Tradition contexts in Kansas and Nebraska.

Newton, Cody (University of Colorado - Boulder)

THE LITTLE SNAKE RIVER POSTCONTACT PROJECT: DOCUMENTING AN EARLY TO MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY INDIGENOUS OCCUPATION IN THE SOUTHERN WYOMING BASIN [POSTER PAPER]

As part of an on-going research project into a significant post-contact indigenous occupation in the Little Snake River drainage of Wyoming, fieldwork was undertaken in 2011 and 2012 to record nine selected sites. These sites have characteristics, including architectural features and European-derived trade items, consistent with an early to mid-nineteenth century occupation. Preliminary analyses of the artifacts and data collected during the survey and limited testing of these sites provide insight into subsistence, along with some of the factors that may have influenced campsite location. This information is presented in order to facilitate discussion about the identity, as well as the socioeconomic and environmental processes affecting these Indian group(s) during this highly transformative time.

Richard, Russell (TRC Environmental)

Kicking the Can: or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Rust

The ubiquitous can scatter is an often lowly regarded and poorly recorded part of the archaeological record, however the study of 'tin cans' often provides insight into many aspects of historical occupation of the west such as resource procurement, diet, and economic circumstances. As a result of energy-related projects during the past several decades numerous can sites have been recorded across Wyoming. This presentation summarizes previous and newly-acquired information regarding the chronology and classification of cans in addition to highlighting the new era of can recording required by the 50 year historic artifact designation.

Schroeder, Bryon (University of Montana)

THE SHIRLEY BASIN LODGE SITE: THE OTHER ALTA TOQUIMA OF WYOMING

This talk presents a basic overview of the first professional work at the Shirley Basin Lodge site in over 35 years. The site is best known for the Shoshone biface figures seen in all editions of the *Prehistoric Hunters-Gatherers of The High Plains and Rockies*. Outside of these figures only a handful of amateurs and professional archaeologists know the site exists. A single ten day field-session of the 2012 CSU field school sought to rerecord this largely forgotten site. Our primary goals were to begin recording the approximately one-hundred multi-coursed stone structures and thousands of single coursed stone circles, map associated living debris, and evaluate subsurface deposits. In doing so we hoped to better understand the size of the site as well as to evaluate the potential for undisturbed buried deposits. In this talk I report the results of our feature evaluation, test excavation, and goals for future work at this site.

Shimek, Rachael Lea (University of Wyoming) and Joshua Robert-Allen Boyd (University of Wyoming)

ANALYSIS OF AN EARLY LATE PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSEMBLAGE FROM HELL GAP VALLEY, EASTERN WYOMING

Over several field seasons, archaeological materials from the vicinity of several hearths in the Hell Gap Valley (Eastern Wyoming) have been collected. The Hell Gap Valley contains several multi-

component sites, with occupations dating to the Paleoindian period and later. The recently collected artifacts include butchered bison bones, two ground stone implements, a single piece of prehistoric pottery, and numerous chipped stone artifacts including debitage, cores, modified flakes, an endscraper fragment, and a projectile point. A brief descriptive analysis of these materials indicates that early late prehistoric activities at this locality included bison processing and lithic tool manufacture, use, and maintenance. Although the assemblage is limited, it offers a glimpse into later prehistoric activities and occupation in Hell Gap Valley.

Stapley, Jordan (Central Wyoming College)

48FR6484 - COAL GULCH ROCK SHELTER

The Coal Gulch Rock Shelter is a 30m long, 6m deep shelter located at the foot of the Wind River Mountains south of Lander, Wyoming. The shelter walls and overhang, and the cliff face beyond both ends of the shelter, contain pictographs and petroglyphs dating from approximately 7800 BP to the Late Prehistoric Period. Lithic debitage is present across the site surface. At least two partially buried stacked stone features exist at one end of the shelter. Sub-surface testing during 2012 revealed evidence of a burned wooden superstructure over one feature. The collapsed superstructure appears to have sealed an intact prehistoric living floor beneath it.

Thorton, Jennifer (Central Wyoming College)

MUDDY MOUNTAIN SAWMILL 48NA5046

The Muddy Mountain Sawmill (48NA5046) was recorded in 2012 during a Class III survey for a BLM timber thinning project about twenty miles south of Casper. This industrial and habitation site was occupied from 1938- 1959. The sawmill utilized a Wyoming natural resource and provided construction materials locally for many Casper buildings. Lumber was also shipped as far away as Colorado. The site consists of a large assemblage of industrial and household debris. Archaeological Interpretations of patterns and use areas are confirmed by historical data provided by surviving laborers.

Whitley, David S. (ASM Affiliates) BANQUET SPEAKER

PETROGLYPH DATING AND THE PEOPLING OF THE AMERICAS

Two topics have historically bedeviled North American archae-

ologists: the peopling of the Americas, and the dating of petroglyphs. Though it is still uncertain when humans first entered the continent, the evidence now suggests it was roughly 15,000 years ago, but little beyond that is really known. Headway was made in petroglyph dating during the 1980s and 1990s, but research was stymied by an unfortunate controversy in 1998. Though this only involved a single dating technique, it effectively stalled all research on this problem for a decade. A recent re-analysis of existing and new petroglyph dates using the varnish microlamination and cation-ratio techniques has resulted in a suite of 60 petroglyph ages for the Coso Range, California, many of which have been cross-checked in a variety of ways. When compared to dated rock art from other North and South American regions, these indicate that at least four art traditions existed by Paleoindian times. This suggests that, despite a widespread fluted projectile point tradition, significant cultural diversity had already developed prior to about 10,000 YBP.



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